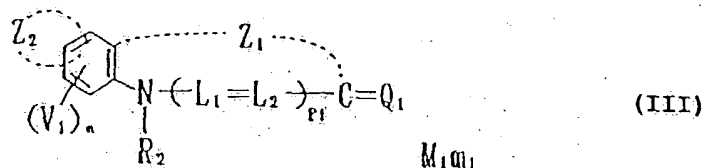


**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

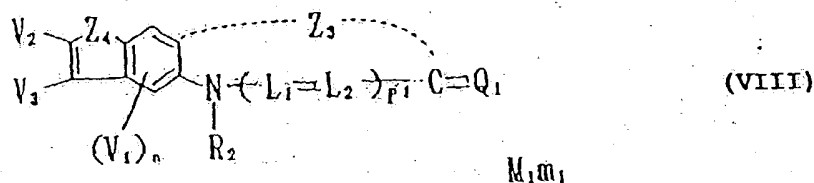
Claim 1. A compound represented by formula  
(III):



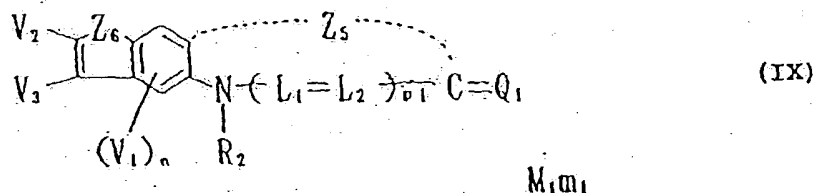
wherein  $Z_1$  represents an atomic group necessary to form thiazole;  $Z_2$  represents an atomic group selected from the group consisting of a furan ring, a thiophene ring, a pyrrole ring, a pyrazole ring, an isooxazole ring, an isothiazole ring and an imidazole ring;  $R_2$  represents a substituted or unsubstituted alkyl group or a substituted or unsubstituted aryl group;  $L_1$  and  $L_2$  each represents a methine group;  $p_1$  represents 0;  $V_1$  represents a substituent;  $Q_1$  represents a methine group or a polymethine group necessary to form a methine dye;  $M_1$  represents an electric charge balancing counter ion; and  $m_1$  represents a number of from 0 to 10 necessary to neutralize the electric charge of the molecule; and  $n$  represents 0, 1 or 2, and when  $n$  represents 2, a plurality of  $V_1$  may be the same or different.

2. The compound as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein  $Z_2$  represents a furan ring, a thiophene ring  
or a pyrrole ring.

3. The compound as claimed in claim 1,  
wherein the compound represented by formula (III) is  
represented by formula (VIII) or (IX):



wherein  $Z_4$  represents an oxygen atom or a sulfur  
atom;  $Z_3$  represents an atomic group necessary to form  
thiazole,  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$ ,  $p_1$ ,  $V_1$ ,  $n$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $Q_1$ ,  $M_1$ , and  $m_1$  each  
has the same meaning as described in formula (III);  
and  $V_2$  and  $V_3$  represents a substituent, or  $V_2$  and  $V_3$   
may form a condensed ring containing  $V_2$  and  $V_3$ ;



wherein  $Z_6$  represents  $N-R_3$ ;  $Z_5$  represents an  
atomic group necessary to form thiazole;  $R_3$   
represents a hydrogen atom or a substituent;  $L_1$ ,  $L_2$ ,  
 $p_1$ ,  $V_1$ ,  $n$ ,  $R_2$ ,  $Q_1$ ,  $M_1$ , and  $m_1$  each has the same

meaning as described in formula (III); and  $V_2$  and  $V_3$  each has the same meaning as described in formula (VIII).

4. The compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein  $R_2$  represents an alkyl group having an aryl group as a substituent or an aryl group.

5. The compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one substituent represented by  $V_1$  is a group having at least one dissociable group which has a dissociable proton and has a negative charge at proton dissociation or which forms a salt with a counter cation in the form of an anion.

6. The compound as claimed in claim 3, wherein at least one substituent represented by  $V_2$  or  $V_3$  in formula (VIII) or formula (IX) is a group having at least one dissociable group which has a dissociable proton and has a negative charge at proton dissociation or which forms a salt with a counter cation in the form of an anion.

7. The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein  $R_2$  represents an alkyl group having an aryl group as a substituent or an aryl group.

8. The compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one substituent represented by  $V_1$  is

a group having at least one dissociable group which has a dissociable proton and has a negative charge at proton dissociation or which forms a salt with a counter cation in the form of an anion.